ALLOTMENT OF DIV. TO LOCATIONS.

APPENDIX Z.

POONA.	AHMEDNAGAR.	BELGAUM.	UNALLOTTED.
Fd Regt	Ind Inf Bde	Ind Inf Bde	Div HQ
A/Tk Regt	A.T. Coy	Ind Fd Regt	Div Sigs
Ind Fd Park Coy		Ind Inf Wksp Coy	HQ Div Arty
Three Ind Fd Coys		G.T.Coy	Engrs
Div Recce Bn		A.T.Coy	RIASC
Div MG Bn			IEME
Ind Inf Bde			Ind Mtn Regt
G.T.Coy			Div HQ Bn
A.T.Coy			Div Pro
Two Ind Inf Wksp Coys			Sub Park O.F.P.
Ind Rec Coy			Ind Mob Vet Sec
Two Ind Fd Ambs			E.S.Sec.
Fd Hyg Sec			

LOCATION IN THE AHMEDNAGAR AREA OF:-

SECRET. AND PERSONAL.

One Ind Tank Brigade
One Ind Infantry Brigade
F.V.S.
R.A.C. Depot
I.A.C. Training Centre.

1. IND TK BDE & IND INF BDE.

The composition and strength of the Ind Tk Bde and Ind Inf Bde has been taken as set out in Appx A and a British Regt/Bn have been included in each of these fmns.

An Ind Inf Bde plus one A.T. Coy and not an Ind Inf Bde Gp has been considered and has been taken to consist of:-

Bde HQ and Sig Sec
One British and two Ind Inf Bns
One A.T. Coy.

One G.T. Coy (non Div) has also been included in the troops to be located.

The Inf Bde and the A.T. Coy have been taken to be part of the Div to be located in the Poona area which is in accordance with a recommendation made by HQ S/Army to GHQ(I).

2. FIGHTING VEHICLE SCHOOL.

The information available from the Comd F.V.S. is that he has been told unofficially that the School will continue to cater for fourteen Ind Armd Corps Regts plus two R.A.C. Regts and that the present Armd Corps O.T.S. Wing will be abolished. On the assumption that this information is correct he should be able to give up the area now occupied by the Armd Corps O.T.S.; but no other accommodati will become available.

3. R.A.C. DEPOT.

This establishment is at present located in Poona. I have assumed that the Depot will form part of the postwar army and that the intention is to locate it in Ahmednagar; and I have also assumed that the maximum strength will not exceed a total of 250 officers an men.

4. I.A.C. TRAINING CENTRE.

Neither is the probable postwar strength of the Centre known, nor is any information available to me of its future scope. At present I understand that the I.A.C. Recruit Training is carried out as follows:-

Basic training at the I.A.C. Recruits' Trg Centre at Lucknow.

From Lucknow approx half the recruits pass to the I.A.C. Armd Car School at Ferozepore.

The other half proceed to the I.A.C. Tk School at Babina.

I have assumed that the total period of recruits' postwar training will be one year; the number of recruits will be about 1500; and the intention is to concentrate all types of training in the Ahmednagar area. It is for consideration whether Ahmednagar is geographically the best location, although there are many other advantages of establishing it there.

5. Two Plans, I and II, which are alternative in respect of the two bdes, have been drawn up and the following Appendices have been prepared:-

Appx A Approx Staff Table of Ind Armd Bde and Ind Inf Bde.

Appx B Outline Accommodation Statement of Plan I.

Appx C Map to illustrate Plan I.

Appx D Outline Accommodation Statement of Plan II.

Appx E Map to illustrate Plan II.

6. ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE.

The accommodation available consists of three types:-

a. Prewar Permanent Accommodation comprising:-

FORT.
MINTO LINES to the north of the FORT.
NAPIER and WELLESLEY LINES which now house the F.V.S.
SANDHURST LINES on EAST RIDGE.
C.M.H. buildings in KINGS ROAD west of the FORT which now house part of the C.M.H.
BRITISH STATION HOSPITAL in which is accommodated the Armd Corps O.T.S.

All permanent buildings are shown in BLUE on Map Appxs B.

b. A small proportion of High Grade Hutted Accommodation.

These buildings are brick and should last about seven years and with major repairs would last considerably longer. No tented accommodation or connected hutted ancillaries have been considered in formulating the accommodation plans proposed.

c. A considerable amount of Low Grade Hutted Accommodation of the Brick Noggin Type.

The official life of this type of accommodation is three years which might be extended to five and with major repairs would last considerably longer. Much of the life has already been expended.

7. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PLANS I & II.

I consider that, if it is decided to locate one Tk Bde and one Inf Bde and the additional establishments set out in the heading of this paper in Ahmednagar, these two plans are the only reasonable courses. They are alternative. Either Plan I, which locates the majority of the Tk Bde in STUD FARM area south of Ahmednagar and the Inf Bde in EAST RIDGE area or Plan II, in which the Inf in EAST RIDGE change places with the Tk Bde in STUD FARM, can be adopted.

In both plans one Tk Regt and the Inf Bn belonging to the Tk Bde are located NORTH of the FORT and the locations of the F.V.S., R.A.C. Depot and I.A.C. Trg Centre are the same.

Whichever plan is adopted it will be necessary to use all types of temporary buildings (HUTTED).

8. The F.V.S. should continue to occupy its present location. The R.A.C. Depot should take over the Armd Corps O.T.S. site and the I.A.C. Trg Centre will have to displace the D. & M. School at Arangaon, 6 miles southwest of Ahmednagar.

If the scope of the I.A.C. Trg Centre is to be as assumed in para 4 then the D. & M. School site will have to be expanded. If the D. & M. School is to remain at Arangaon then I do not consider that it is possible to site the I.A.C. Trg Centre in Ahmednagar until accommodation has been constructed, unless one Inf Bn of the Inf Bde is located in another place. A solution would be to move this Inf Bn to Aurangabad but I do not advocate this as another battalion will have there to be located in order to make room for the hospital on EAST RIDGE (see para 10) and I do not consider that two battalions should be away from brigade HQ.

9. The accommodation on EAST RIDGE is superior to that in STUD FARM area and it is a more pleasant site. Moreover there is practically no officers family accommodation at STUD FARM. STUD FARM is black cotton soil while the soil at EAST RIDGE consists largely of murram and so would provide better vehicle standings. On the other hand the best small arm ranges are near EAST RIDGE.

10. I have assumed that a garrison of approx 10,000 men will require 400 hospital beds with a crisis expansion up to a total of 600 beds, in the proportion of 200 British and 400 Indian.

At present the Combined Military Hospital is located in two areas; the British component on EAST RIDGE, the INDIAN component west of the FORT.

EAST RIDGE is in my opinion the most healthy and pleasant locality in AHMEDNAGAR and the hospital there has an operating theatre and X Ray installation. Also, it is uneconomical to have a hospital split into two widely separated entities. Therefore, for these two reasons, I consider the hospital should be concentrated on EAST RIDGE, which will displace one Ind Inf Bn. This bn could, I suggest, be located at AURANGABAD. To adopt this hospital plan will preclude locating the Armd Bde in EAST RIDGE area and virtually rule out Plan II.

An alternative hospital plan, which I do not favour, is to split the hospital as at present.

If the R.A.C. Depot is not located in AHMEDNAGAR the British Hospital component might then be localised.

11. <u>WATER SUPPLY</u>.

I do not anticipate any difficulty over water supply for the garrison of Ahmednagar as proposed in this paper except that if it is decided to locate the I.A.C. Trg Centre at Arangaon the local supply for that area will have to be developed.

12. <u>ACQUISITION OF LAND</u>.

I regret I am not in possession of entirely satisfactory information on this subject; but I understand that all military accommodation in Ahmednagar is on military land with the exception that one or two small bungalow sites in the present Armd Corps O.T.S. enclave have been requisitioned. These small bungalows should now be acquired.

Arangaon is also on military land but a considerable area round the barracks has been requisitioned for training and should now be acquired.

Certain range areas outside Ahmednagar which are on requisitioned land should also be acquired.

13. FAMILIES.

Accommodation for families has not been considered as the postwar policy on this matter is not known. There is probably sufficient family accommodation for officers, except in STUD FARM area, but nowhere is there any appreciable amount of family accommodation for O.Rs and much building would be necessary. I do not consider it would be advisable to convert accommodation and so make room for families without building by reducing the number of units; and in my opinion there is adequate room to build for this purpose without altering the suggested locations.

14. BUILDING PROGRAMME.

I am unaware of the scope and rate of the postwar building programme but if the army is to be redistributed on the lines indicated in various recent GHQ(I) policy letters a comprehensive long term programme will be necessary.

The problem in respect of Ahmednagar and, I suggest, also of other military stations, will surely be to maintain temporary accommodation as long as economical and to build permanent accommodation to be completed at the rate at which the temporary accommodation becomes untenable.

15. SUMMARY.

a. It is possible now to locate in Ahmednagar the formations and establishments set out in the heading of this paper with the following exceptions:-

i. The I.A.C. Trg Centre as envisaged cannot be accommodated at Arangaon without some construction. The D. & M. School will have to move to make room for the I.A.C. Trg Centre.

ii. The location of the hospital on EAST RIDGE will mean that one Inf Bn will have to be located at Aurangabad.

b. I consider that the hospital should be located on EAST RIDGE and therefore I consider Plan I should be adopted and the Tk Bde be located mostly in STUD FARM area.

c. Certain training areas now requisitioned should be permanently acquired.

d. Additional building for families will be necessary.

e. I suggest that a comprehensive long term building programme maintaining a nice balance between maintenance of temporary accommodation and construction of permanent accommodation is essential early.